

crest. Here the birds will lie, generally choosing one of those groups of boulders already mentioned, and, especially if they have been flushed previously, may often be put up one or two at a time at very short range, but it is necessary to shoot quickly, as they are extremely clever at putting a boulder between themselves and the gun. When much pressed near the sea-coast, the birds will often take refuge among rocks and stones at the very water's edge.

The food at this time consists of the seeds of thistle-like and other dry matured plants that grow on the fallows and stubbles, gleanings of corn, big black ants, green trefoil leaves, grubbed up bulbs and roots, and other seeds. They seem much troubled with ticks about the head. Five big and a number of little ticks were found in one ear-cavity.

The natives had a big shoot just before the Fleet arrived at Lemnos, many guns taking part, and they were said to have shot about three hundred birds, most, if not all, running. There are plenty of birds, and a small party of guns may easily average ten or more birds per head in a day's shooting, if they know how and where to go.

VIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

1. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxviii. Nos. 3, 4 (July, October, 1911).]

In both of these numbers are to be found articles on the Passenger Pigeon, supplementary to that of October, 1910 (p. 428). "Other early records" of the bird are given by Mr. A. H. Wright for Canada, New England, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and Maryland, as well as the Gulf States, those east of the Mississippi, and those west of the same river. These two papers are not only of great interest to all Ornithologists, but must be as nearly as possible exhaustive with

regard to the localities treated. Mr. W. Craig writes on the expression of Emotion in Pigeons, one contribution referring to the Passenger Pigeon, the other to the Mourning Dove, and draws attention to an article on the Collared Turtle Dove in another periodical. Mr. H. E. Ewing discusses the difference between the Chicken Mite and the Bird Mite (two cuts), and has made the discovery that the former is disseminated by the English Sparrow in America. Mr. A. H. Thayer had demanded an investigation of his tests of the "effactive power of patterns," so Dr. J. A. Allen takes up the cudgels in a review of Dr. Roosevelt's "Revealing and Concealing Coloration in Birds and Mammals," and, while giving Mr. Thayer full credit for the discovery of an overlooked principle in optics, comments on the fact that his tests are carried out with artificial backgrounds and with an absence of the motion that would be present in the living creature.

As regards individual species of birds, Mr. S. M. Gronberger translates for 'The Auk' a description by a Stockholm medical student (Å. R. Martin, 1759) of a Petrel supposed to have been a Fulmar, this being the earliest description extant. Mr. J. Grinnell traces, by means of a map and an explanation thereof, the distribution of the Western Mocking-bird in California; Mr. J. C. Phillips writes on unusual flights of Canada Geese in Massachusetts in 1910; Mr. A. Saunders on the nesting of the Cedar Waxwing; Messrs. Taverner and Swales on the Migration of the Saw-whet Owl; Dr. C. W. Townsend on the Courtship and Migration of the Red-breasted Merganser; Mr. G. Nelson on the Brown Pelican in Florida, which he has observed to breed for twelve consecutive months (four pls.); while in the "General Notes" Mr. J. E. Peters corrects some statements made about Brewster's Warbler.

A summary by Mr. G. Eifrig on Bird Protection abroad, and local papers by Mr. O. Widmann on his observations at Estes Park, Colorado, by Mr. A. B. Howell on Cobb's Island, Virginia, and by Messrs. Cobb and Brooks on Eastern Alberta, complete the two numbers.

2. *Berlepsch on the Birds of the Aru Islands.*

[Die Vögel der Aru-Inseln, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Sammlungen des Herrn Dr. H. Merton, zusammengestellt von Hans Graf v. Berlepsch. Abh. Senck. Nat. Gesell. xxxiv. Frankfort-a-M.]

The Aru Islands, although frequently visited by naturalists and well-known to Wallace, who has devoted several chapters to them in his 'Malay Archipelago,' have never, so far as we know, had the honour of a special treatise on their Birds. An excellent ornithologist has now undertaken this task, basing it on the Collection lately made there by Dr. Hugo Merton and entrusted to Graf v. Berlepsch by the Senckenbergian Museum at Frankfort-a-M.

The known Ornis of the Aru group contains about 188 species. Dr. Merton's Collection embraces specimens of fifty-eight. Of these, three (*Halcyon macleayi insularis*, *Sterna longipennis*, and *Sterna anastheta*) are additions to the Avifauna. After several pages of well-written general remarks, in which ten species of birds are designated as being, so far as we yet know, peculiar to the Aru Islands, our author gives a systematic list of all the species of the Island-group, with references to former authorities and other observations. That the Aru Islands have a predominantly Papuan Avifauna is manifest by their being the sole possessor of the Great Bird-of-Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*), besides many other significant Papuan forms. There is, however, apparently a feeble Australian element.

3. *Brabourne and Chubb on the Nomenclature of the Rheas.*

[The Nomenclature of the Rheas of South America. By Lord Brabourne, F.Z.S., and C. Chubb, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Zoological Department, British Museum. Ann. & Mag. N. H. ser. 8, vol. viii. p. 73.]

The authors wish to rename the common *Rhea americana* and to call it *Rhea rothschildi*, because they say that Linnæus' *Struthio americanus* was based on Maregrave's "*Nhanduguacu*," which came from the district occupied by

Rhea macrorhyncha. To this we reply that the two above-named forms are so much alike that it is impossible to decide certainly to which of them Maregrave refers. We, therefore, think that it would be a great mistake to change the well-known name *Rhea americana*, which has hitherto been universally adopted for the ordinary species.

As regards the scientific name of Darwin's Rhea, d'Orbigny's note (Voy. l'Amér. Mérid. ii. p. 67) states: "Cette espèce a les acrotarses couverts de petites plumes; c'est pourquoi je lui ai imposé le nom de *Rhea pennata*." This shews that he well understood the special character which distinguishes it from *R. americana*, and we allow that his name has precedence over that of Gould.

4. Bureau on the Determination of the Age of Partridges.

[L'Âge des Perdrix: I. La Perdrix Grise. Par le Dr. Louis Bureau. Nantes, 1911, pp. 1-129.]

In this paper Dr. Bureau shews us how to ascertain the age of a Common Partridge from a consideration of the structure of the wing, the moult, the gradual loss of the primaries, secondaries, and so forth. Characters are further given to distinguish the male from the female; the various races are touched upon and the weight is also discussed. A great number of statistics is given to elucidate the subject. The regularity of the moult is stated to be very remarkable. Chronometrical tables can consequently be made out, which seem to distinguish the young at various ages from the adult in a more thorough way than has ever been hitherto attempted. This careful and painstaking work is illustrated by thirty-five figures.

5. 'The Emu.'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. xi. pts. 1, 2 (July, October, 1911).]

The first, and one of the most important, of the papers in these two parts of our contemporary is on the Bush-birds of New Zealand, by Mr. J. C. McLean: it is continued in October and gives a very clear idea of the extent to which the rarer species have been extirpated, while telling us that they are

not so near to extinction as has been imagined. Full details are given of *Carpophaga novæ-zealandiæ*, *Harpa novæ-zealandiæ*, *Ninox novæ-zealandiæ*, *Cyanorhamphus auriceps*, *Nestor meridionalis*, *Chalcococcyx lucidus*, *Miro australis*, *Petræca toitoi*, and *Pseudogerygone flaviventris*. Seven plates of scenery, nests, and eggs are added. The author's observations were made in the winters of 1906-7, on Mt. Maunga-Haunia in the North Island. A second paper, by Mr. Basset Hull, is on the avifauna of the New South Wales Islands (cf. 'Emu,' vol. x. p. 253). On Broughton Island the first specimen of what appeared to be *Puffinus griseus* taken on Australian soil was found in a burrow, and nestlings of *P. sphenurus* were also obtained. Nestlings of *Œstrelata leucoptera* were procured on Cabbage-Tree Island; while both the latter species are described in an accompanying article, as well as a new species (*Puffinus intermedius*), near *P. griseus*, taken in 1910 on Cabbage-Tree Island (pl.). It is not quite clear whether the supposed *P. griseus* proved to be *P. intermedius*, but apparently this was not the case. On p. 47 attention is, moreover, drawn to another new Petrel (*Œstrelata montana*) from Lord Howe Island, which was described in Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. vol. xxxv. pt. 4, as also the eggs.

Two other important papers are included in the present parts. One is by Mr. H. G. Barnard, on birds from Cape York, and tells us, among many other items of interest, of eggs of *Rallina tricolor*, which are said to be white*, of those of *Halcyon barnardi*, *Cracticus mentalis*, *Xanthotis filigera*, *Craspedophora alberti*, and *Phonygama gouldi*; that the last-named bird builds near *Cracticus quoyi* for safety's sake, and that *Astur novæ-hollandiæ* must be considered identical with *A. clarus*, which interbreeds with it. The bower, nest, and eggs of *Chlamydodera orientalis* are also described. The second paper is by Dr. J. B. Cleland, and discourses of the contents of the stomachs and crops of a large number of Australian birds, including notes on several from Lord Howe Island, by Dr. T. H. Johnston.

"Australian Birds in Siberia" is the title of a paper by

* Cf. remarks, p. 198 (*infra*).

Mr. S. A. Buturlin; Mr. G. M. Mathews writes on *Falcunculus frontatus whitei* and its nearest allies (col. pl.); while Mr. F. E. Wilson, Mr. A. W. Milligan, and Mr. E. Ashby each describe a new species, namely, *Myzantha melanotis* from N.W. Victoria, *Ptilotis insularis* from Rottneest Island, W. Australia, and *Rhipidura mayi* from Anson Bay, Northern Territory. Finally, Capt. S. A. White gives us some notes from Cape York; Mr. J. W. Mellor discusses the introduction of the Mallee Fowl into Kangaroo Island (two papers); and two or three minor articles complete the tale.

6. Flower's Report on the Giza Gardens.

[Zoological Gardens, Giza, near Cairo. Report for the Year 1910. (Twelfth Annual Report.) By the Director. Cairo, 1911.]

The Zoological Gardens at Giza, well known to all those who resort to Egypt, are in their usual thriving condition. The number of visitors in 1910 was fully up to the average, and many good additions had been made to the stock of animals. The collection of Egyptian birds under Mr. Nicoll's charge had been increased by his excursion to the Wadi Natron in Lower Egypt, where 136 specimens had been obtained, and by the Director's visit to the Blue Nile, whence 110 had been brought, along with a valuable series of living animals.

The Egyptian Collection, which at the end of 1910 contained 1734 skins, is described as follows:—

“This Collection, on account of the authentic data accompanying every specimen, and the care bestowed upon it by Mr. Nicoll (who has personally collected and prepared the large majority of the specimens), is now very valuable. The importance of the help given by various species of birds to an agricultural country like Egypt cannot be over-estimated, but curiously very little accurate knowledge of the avifauna has been obtained so far. A Collection, like the one Mr. Nicoll is now forming, is a necessity both to the Zoologist and the Agriculturist to ascertain what species of birds occur in Egypt, their habits, and migrations.”

7. *Griffith's Catalogue of the Booth Collection at Brighton.*

[Catalogue of Cases of Birds in the Dyke Road Museum, Brighton, giving a few descriptive notes and the localities in which the specimens were found, by E. T. Booth. With further notes by A. F. Griffith. Fourth Edition. Brighton, 1911.]

In 1907 (see 'Ibis,' 1907, p. 639) we gave a notice of the third edition of this useful manual; we have now the pleasure of recording the issue of a fourth edition, of which Mr. Griffith has kindly sent us a copy. Many excellent notes are contained in it, both about each species in general and about the particular specimens of it exhibited in the Booth Collection, so that it is fast becoming almost a Manual of British Birds.

The original Collection made by the late Mr. Booth contained examples of 227 species, to which 85 have been added since his bequest was received. Among the specimens recently acquired is a Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*) caught, exhausted, on the rocks near Brighton on the 24th of April, 1911, and a Gull-billed Tern (*S. anglica*), also a rare species. We need not repeat the history of this excellent Collection, but can assure all ornithologists that it is well worth a visit.

8. *Guide to the Animals of the Bible.*

[Guide to the Exhibition of the Animals, Plants, and Minerals mentioned in the Bible. British Museum (Natural History) Special Guide. No. 5. London, 1911. 74 pp.]

An Exhibition of the Animals, Plants, and Minerals mentioned in the Bible was prepared, by order of the Trustees of the British Museum, for the Tercentenary of the Authorized Version, which has lately been celebrated. The Collection, which has now been removed to one of the bays in the Great Hall of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, though by no means complete, is worthy of notice. The Zoological objects have been selected, labelled, and arranged by Mr. R. Lydekker, F.R.S., under the general supervision of the Keeper of Zoology. The book now before us is a "Guide" to them. Rather over twenty species of birds are mentioned in the List of

Animals, and the principal facts known about them are correctly, but rather insufficiently, stated.

The chief authority on the subject is, of course, the late Canon Tristram's excellent 'Fauna and Flora of Palestine,' published in 1884, and the same author's 'Natural History of the Bible' (1864).

9. Gunning and Roberts on new Birds in the Transvaal Museum.

New Records and Descriptions of New Species of Birds in the Transvaal Museum Collection. By Dr. J. W. B. Gunning and Austin Roberts. Annals Transvaal Mus. iii. No. 2, p. 109.]

The following species and subspecies are described in this paper:—*Vinago orientalis* (Beira); *Pternistes castaneiventer* (E. Africa, Fort Beaufort); *Fulco horsbrughi* (Transvaal); three new subspecies of *Piezorhina capensis*, proposed to be called *P. c. intermedia*, *P. c. grisea*, and *P. c. pusilla*; *Glaucidium capense rufum* (E. Africa); *Dendromus albifacies* (E. Africa); *Irisor erythrorhynchus brevirostris* (E. Afr.); *Alsconar carulescens pondolensis* (Pondoland); *Certhilauda dariesi* (East Griqualand); *Phyllastrephus capensis intermedius* (S.E. Africa); *Zosterops caulensis* (Potchefstroom); *Apalis rhodesiæ* (Matabeleland); *A. spelonkensis* (N. Transvaal); *A. venustus* (Pondoland); *A. darglensis* (Natal); *A. flaviventris* (Pretoria); *Cameroptera brachyura bororensis* (E. Afr.); *C. griseo-viridis noomei* (Transvaal); *Monticola pretoriæ* and *Cisticola pusilla* (E. Afr.).

Among the "New Records" we find the name of *Sylvia nisoria*, of which a specimen was obtained near Venterskroon, Transvaal, in November 1909, and another near Bulawayo, Rhodesia, in January 1911. The identity of the former specimen has been confirmed by Dr. Reichenow.

10. Hartert on the Birds of the South-west Islands.

[(1) On the Birds of Sermatta, one of the South-west Islands. By E. Hartert, Ph.Dr. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 161.

(2) Additions to the Birds of Babber. By E. Hartert, Ph.Dr. *Ibid.* p. 169.

(3) Additions to the Avifauna of Luang. By E. Hartert, Ph.Dr. *Ibid.* p. 179.]

These memoirs are all supplementary to Dr. Hartert's former papers on the Birds of the South-west Islands, in the Moluccas (Nov. Zool. 1904, p. 174, and 1906, p. 288). Sermatta had not been previously visited, but has now produced examples of 45 species, none of which are peculiar. Six additions are made to the Avifauna of Babber, and eight to that of Luang, but none of them are peculiar.

The small island of Marsela alone remains unexplored.

11. *Hartert on Henicophaps foersteri.*

[On *Henicophaps foersteri*. By Dr. E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 168, plate.]

This fine Pigeon, which was first described in 1906, from a specimen obtained in New Britain, is now figured by Dr. Hartert (plate i.).

12. *Koenig on the Birds of Spitsbergen.*

[Avifauna Spitzbergensis: Forschungsreisen nach der Bären-Insel und dem Spitzbergen-Archipel, mit ihren faunistischen und floristischen Ergebnissen. Herausgegeben und verfasst von Alexander Koenig. Bonn, 1911. Pp. i-x, 1-294, 74 text-figs., 20 Heliogravures, 34 col. pls., and map.]

This important and finely illustrated work is a welcome contribution to Ornithology, and comes at a time when it is possible to sum up, with a fair chance of completeness, the information to be gathered from the writings of many former explorers. The author, moreover, has visited the Spitsbergen group on no less than three occasions, and has thoroughly explored a large extent of territory in company with several friends, of whom Baron Geyr von Schweppenburg and Dr. Otto le Roi may be more particularly mentioned.

The ornithological part of the book consists of two main portions, the first being devoted to a general account of the journeys, including Norway, with a full description of the country and its fauna by the author himself; and the second containing articles on the different species by Dr. le Roi, in addition to an Ornithological Bibliography of

Bear Island and Spitsbergen, from the year 1598 onwards, with lists of their Birds.

It is impossible here to follow in detail the journeys of 1905, 1907, and 1908, which are traced on a map that has been brought up to date with the greatest care, but it should be mentioned that the course followed from Bear Island, in 1907, by the explorers took them far up the more important fjords and into the bays of the west coast of Spitsbergen, and thence along most of its northern shore; while in 1908 they visited the same and other parts of the west coast, the South Cape, King Ludwig Island, and Menko Island. On each occasion pack-ice prevented further progress to the east.

A few of the most important discoveries may be now mentioned. Some form of the Gyr-Falcon; the remains of a Starling (Bear Island—most northern record), of a Blackbird and a Redwing (Bear Island); the Ringed Plover (doubtless breeding); the remains of a Woodcock (Spitsbergen); Sabine's Gull (nest and eggs—King's Bay); and a young Herring Gull (Bear Island). Important notes are furnished on four species of Skua, the Pink-footed, Brent, and Bernicle Geese, the Wigeon and other Ducks, besides full accounts of all the well-known species inhabiting the group of islands, especially the rarer forms.

The photographic reproductions of scenery are charming, and the coloured plates of birds and eggs excellent. Of the larger birds the heads only are drawn. Many English and foreign artists have contributed to the plates.

The last eighteen pages are devoted to other classes of the Fauna, and to the Flora, but these are outside of our special province.

13. *Lowe on Desert Islands.*

[A Naturalist on Desert Islands. By Percy R. Lowe, B.A., M.B.O.U. With 32 plates and 3 maps. Witherby & Co., 1911.]

There are not many desert islands still left in the world, we suppose, but Dr. Lowe has found three, and gives us an interesting account of them in the present volume. For

six consecutive winters it was our friend's good fortune to accompany Sir Frederick Johnston and his wife, Lady Wilton, during their delightful yachting cruises in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. His host and hostess most kindly gave Dr. Lowe every opportunity of visiting little known islands and spots in order to gratify his taste for Natural History, and the readers of this Journal have had several opportunities of judging how well he has profited by their kindness. After making his scientific discoveries public Dr. Lowe has thought that a more popular account of some of his reseaches might be appreciated, and has composed the present volume.

The three "Desert Islands," which are the special subjects of the work, are Swan Island in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico, Blanquilla on the Venezuelan coast, and the group of the Hermanos, 90 miles due north of Venezuela. As will be noted, his chapters are by no means confined to Bird-life, but range over the whole field of Natural History, and touch upon many other subjects of general interest. We strongly recommend the perusal of 'A Naturalist's Visit to Desert Islands' to all our readers.

14. *Mathews on the Birds of Australia.*

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. i. pt. 5. London: Witherby & Co. October, 1911.]

Except for the Introduction and Index, which will together form Part 6, Mr. Mathews has now completed the first volume of his work, and we congratulate him on the successful issue of this instalment of his arduous task, and on the continued excellence of the text and plates. This is particularly noticeable in the Part before us, where he has been able to add considerably, by the help of several good observers in Australia, to the life-histories of the species already published.

Perhaps, however, it is on critical points of nomenclature and synonymy that the author would at this juncture be most anxious to insist; and with these we may express a general agreement, so far as we can judge from his pages,

though without the actual specimens it is impossible to decide how far any single species should be subdivided into races.

To descend, however, to details. On the first page we have a reference to Mr. H. G. Barnard's statement in the 'Emu' (*suprà*) that the eggs of *Rallini tricolor* are white, a fact entirely opposed to previous experience: we should be inclined to agree with Mr. Mathews, and to ask whether a single clutch might not be white, while normal eggs were spotted. The next point of importance is that the author places all the Australian forms of *Porphyrio* under one species, as *P. melanotus melanotus*, *P. m. bellus*, *P. m. fletcheræ*, and *P. m. neomelanotus*, the two latter being the Tasmanian and N.W. Australian races, which are both described as new. In this case and in that of the Grebes the keys to the species do not tally with the text, but Mr. Mathews will probably mention this in his "Corrigenda." Moreover, he suggests eight other subspecies, which are not Australian, but here he tells us that the specimens examined were not decisive, and we think that the suggestions are somewhat premature.

Undoubtedly the most important item in the whole of the Part is the determination of a "White Gallinule" assigned to Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, and referred by von Pelzeln to the genus *Notornis*. By means of plates and other arguments we are shown that two distinct birds have been confounded under this appellation—one the *Porphyrio stanleyi* of Rowley, which proves to be merely an albino of *P. melanotus*, and the other the species mentioned by White in his 'Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales.' The latter was secured for the Leverian Museum, and thence passed on to that of Vienna: it is also a *Porphyrio* and should stand as *P. albus* of White, from Lord Howe Island.

We must also note in passing that Mr. Mathews puts forward the new generic title of *Mantellornis* for *Notornis hochstetteri* of New Zealand, and that, in retracting his opinion of the non-Australian character of the Lord Howe

and Norfolk Island avifauna, he accepts Mr. Basset Hull's proposal of a Phillipian Subregion for the two combined. We hope, however, that a different name will be adopted to prevent confusion with the Philippine Islands.

All the Grebes are included in one genus; but, as the author calls the Order *Podicipediformes* and the Family *Podicipedidæ*, we are sorry that he does not also call the genus *Podicipes*. *Aptenodytes patagonica* is subdivided into three races, *A. p. longirostris* of Scopoli (Kerguelen Island and the Crozets), *A. p. halli*, subsp. n. (Macquarie Island), and the typical form. The genus *Penguinus* is resuscitated for *Aptenodytes chrysocome* and its allies, while *Endyptula minor* of Australia is now given as *E. m. novæ-hollandiæ*, and the extra-limital form from the Chatham Islands is termed *E. m. iredalei*, subsp. n.

15. *Nelson on a new Humming-bird.*

[Description of a new genus and species of Humming-bird from Panama. By E. W. Nelson. *Smiths. Misc. Coll.* vol. lxvi. No 21 (1911).]

Mr. E. A. Goldman, of the Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has been sent to Panama to study the Mammals and Birds of the Canal-zone and adjacent parts of the new State. He has discovered an unknown Humming-bird—not only of a new species, but of a new genus. It is allied to *Saucerottia*, “but the under tail-coverts are small and very short, and the three median ones are remarkably specialised.” Mr. Nelson names this bird after its discoverer, *Goldmania violiceps*.

16. *North on Australian Nests and Eggs.*

[Nests and Eggs of Birds found breeding in Australia and Tasmania. Vol. iii., Part 2. Sydney, 1911.]

Of this valuable work, Part 2 of Vol. iii. contains the remaining portion of the Family *Cacatuidæ*, comprising part of the Sub-family *Cacatuinæ* and the Sub-family *Calopsittacinæ*; the Family *Psittacidæ*, containing the Sub-families *Palæornithinæ* and *Platycercinæ*, the two thus forming the

concluding Australian portion of the Order Psittaci. As in the previous parts, the illustrations of Birds are reproduced from drawings made by the late Mr. Neville Cayley. The eggs of the different species of the Order Psittaci being all white, no plate is issued with this Part.

17. *Ogilvie-Grant on the Gallery of Birds in the British Museum.*

[Guide to the Gallery of Birds in the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History). Second Edition. With 29 Plates and 7 Illustrations. London, 1910. Price 2s. 6d.]

There can be no better test of the merits of a book, and of its fitness for the object which it is intended to illustrate, than the exhaustion of the first edition and the call for a second. That this happy state of affairs prevails in the Bird-gallery at South Kensington is as pleasing to all ornithologists as, no doubt, it is to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant himself. The 'Guide' is not only useful as a Handbook for those who would view the contents of the Gallery aright, but, considering the enormous amount of information and instruction contained in it, and the numerous illustrations, is almost a history of the Class of Birds.

At any rate, nearly all the principal facts yet ascertained concerning this attractive Class of Animal Life are carefully put together and explained.

In our notice of the first edition of this excellent piece of work (see 'Ibis,' 1905, p. 486), we fully described the general plan of the 'Guide,' and need not now repeat what has already been stated. The second edition is a reprint of the first, revised and brought up to date by the author. A new plate, representing the playing place of the Gardener Bower-bird (*Amblyornis subalaris*), has been added. This extraordinary bird well merits its name. It builds a miniature cabin with different sorts of mosses, and surrounds it with a small, but perfectly kept, meadow, which is studded with brilliantly coloured flowers, fruits, and insects carefully selected by the architect. These objects, as they become faded, are constantly replaced by the industrious gardener.

Similar accounts of the strange habits and customs of various other birds in different parts of the world are found throughout the volume, which is illustrated by 36 plates, and sold at the very moderate charge of two shillings and sixpence.

18. *Parkin on the Great Auk.*

[The Great Auk. A Record of Sales of Birds and Eggs by Public Auction in Great Britain, 1806-1910. With Historical and Descriptive Notes and 5 plates. By Thomas Parkin. Hastings: Burfield & Pennells, 1911. 2s.]

This excellent piece of work, to which we have been looking forward for some time, is now issued as an Extra Paper to Part vi. of Vol. I. of the 'Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist,' but it can be obtained either from the author or Rowland Ward. Mr. Parkin has been at infinite trouble to determine the correct particulars of the specimens of the Great Auk and its eggs which have been sold at Stevens' Auction Rooms and elsewhere in Britain, in each case with the name of the purchasers, the price, the date of sale, and so forth; and his work will be greatly appreciated by all who have to deal with this extinct bird. The plates are representations of a sale at Stevens' Rooms, of Bullock's 'London Museum,' of an egg in the possession of Mr. Parkin himself, of another now in the Bristol Museum, and of a bird and egg formerly the property of Sir W. Milner.

19. *Reed and Wright on the Birds of Cayuga Lake.*

[The Vertebrates of the Cayuga Lake Basin, N.Y. By Hugh D. Reed and Albert H. Wright. Repr. from Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xlviii. No. 193 (1909).]

This pamphlet on the vertebrates of the largest of the "Finger Lakes" near Ithaca, U.S.A., is based on records of the specimens obtained. The area is described (with four maps); the meteorology, the "life zones" and the status of the birds are fully discussed; and a list of 257 species added. The whole forms a piece of good local investigation, and we may note the occurrence of *Cestrelata kasitata* in 1893, and of the Passenger Pigeon so late as 1892.

20. *Reichenow on the Progress of Ornithology.*

[Ueber die Fortschritte und den gegenwärtigen Stand der Ornithologie. Eröffnungsdrede zum V. Internationalen Ornithologen-Kongress, Berlin, 1910. Von Ant. Reichenow, Präsident des Congresses. Berlin, 1910.]

No one could have been found more worthy of the Presidential chair at the Fifth International Congress of Ornithologists than Professor Reichenow, and we were all heartily glad when we heard that he had managed to overcome the difficulties that he anticipated when he was unanimously nominated for that post at the previous meeting. Of the successful issue of the Congress at Berlin, in May 1910, we have already given a general account*, but the volume containing the full text of the Presidential Address, and the papers read at that meeting, has only just appeared.

Dr. Reichenow's Address is to be recommended in every way as a masterly sketch of the past history and the present state of Ornithological science. Beginning with Linnaeus, he specifies the principal advances that have been made in our knowledge of the Class of Birds during the past 150 years. Every one of the numerous branches into which Ornithology is now divided, even the bearing of our science on what is called "Aviation," is taken in turn. We will not go into particulars on the present occasion, but strongly advise all who are interested in the study of Bird-life and Bird-structure to make themselves acquainted with Professor Reichenow's excellent address. They will not fail to be instructed.

21. *Rothschild on the Ratitæ.*

[On the former and present Distribution of the so-called Ratitæ or Ostrich-like birds, with certain deductions, and a description of a new form by C. W. Andrews. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D. Berlin, 1910.]

As we all know, among Mr. Rothschild's favourite groups of birds are the Ostriches and their allies, on which a mass

* See 'The Ibis,' 1910, p. 710.

of information will be found in the paper now before us. It was read at the International Ornithological Congress at Berlin in 1910, but has been only recently published. After recapitulating and criticizing the various views on this subject, of Gadow, Andrews, Fürbringer, and other authors, Dr. Rothschild gives a complete list of all the known forms, living and extinct, of the true "Ratitæ Palæognathæ." Upwards of 120 species are mentioned, and the exact locality, when known, is stated in each case. They are divided into seven families: Struthionæ, Rheæ, Casuarii, Apteryges, Dinornithes, Epyornithes, and Eremopezzi. An attempt is then made at the difficult task of a "a key to the species." This is succeeded by a discussion of the distribution of the Ratitæ.

Finally the following conclusions are drawn:—

1. That all the known Ratitæ Palæognathæ are descended from ancestral forms capable of flight.
2. That the various groups are descended from several ancestral forms.
3. That these birds did not begin to develop till after the commencement of the Pleistocene Epoch.

Annexed to Mr. Rothschild's paper is a note by Dr. Andrews on some fragments of the fossil egg-shell of a large Struthious Bird from Southern Algeria, with remarks on some pieces of the egg-shell of an Ostrich from Northern India. On the Algerian egg-shell Dr. Andrews bases his *Psammornis rothschildi*, while the North Indian fragments are pronounced to be most like egg-shells of *Struthio molybdophanes* of Somaliland, but thicker than any Ostrich egg-shell hitherto recorded.

22. Rothschild and Hartert on new Birds from New Guinea.

[Preliminary Descriptions of some new Birds from Central New Guinea. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D., and Dr. E. Hartert. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 159.]

Mr. Albert Meek has been able to accompany a Dutch Exploring Expedition up the Eilanden River in New Guinea

and to ascend Mount Goliath, where he collected up to elevations of 5000 feet. He has sent to Tring an interesting collection, which contains examples of such rare species as *Pteridophora alberti*, *Loboparadisea sericea*, and *Parotia carolæ*, besides specimens of one species and three subspecies new to science. These are named *Paradigalla brevicauda*, *Falcinellus striatus atratus*, *Cyclopsitta blythi meeki*, and *Charmosyna stellæ goliathina*.

23. Rubow on the Common Gull.

[The Life of the Common Gull. Told in Photographs. By C. Rubow. London: Witherby & Co., 1911.]

This is a translation of the pamphlet already noticed in 'The Ibis' (1911, p. 395), which will be found useful to those of our members not conversant with Danish.

24. Selater, W. L. *Record of the Ornithological Literature of 1910.*

[Zoological Record, Vol. xlvii. Aves, by W. L. Selater, M.A. London, Nov. 1911.]

The titles of the books and papers relating to Birds contained in the Section "Aves" of the 'Zoological Record' for the year 1910 are 1708 in number against 1721 in 1909. The corresponding number in the year 1908 was 1919.

The Titles, which are the most important part of the work and come first, occupy 63 pages with double columns. The Subject-index, which follows next, is divided into eight sections, as in the previous volume, and the titles in the List are referred to in the Subject-Index by the author's name and the number of his paper in the List of Titles. This is a most simple and excellent plan, and saves an enormous amount of space. So far as we can judge from a cursory inspection the work is correctly done.

25. *Sjöstedt on the Birds of Kilimandsaro.*

[Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Schwedischen zoologischen Expedition, nach dem Kilimandjaro, dem Meru, und den umgebenden Massistennen Deutsch-Ostaficas, 1905-6, unter Leitung von Prof. Dr. Yngve Sjöstedt. Vol. I. Vögel von Yngve Sjöstedt. (179 pp., 5 pls.) Stockholm, 1910.]

This is the first volume of a series of reports on the materials collected by the important scientific expedition sent out by the Swedish Government to German East Africa in 1905. The main aim was a more thorough investigation of the grand mountain Kilimandjaro, which lies under the Equator in the northern part of the German Protectorate, but the surrounding ranges and especially the little known mountain Meru, which rises to a height of 4460 metres about thirty miles west of Kilimandjaro, were also closely examined. The Report on the Birds, prepared by Prof. Sjöstedt, the leader of the Expedition, takes up 164 pages, and is illustrated by six plates, one of which represents an interesting new Nightjar (*Caprimulgus palaminqvisti*).

The memoir commences with an historical sketch of our knowledge of the Avifauna of the Kilimandjaro district, which begins with the visit of von der Decken in 1862, and was further investigated by Fischer, Johnston, Neumann, and other explorers. In spite of their efforts Prof. Sjöstedt succeeded in adding to the List 75 species previously unrecognised within the district, and, besides the *Caprimulgus* already mentioned, describes two other species (*Miraфра meruenis* and *Phyllostrephus kilimanjensis*) and one subspecies *Batis puella montana*, which are new to science. Moreover, much excellent information is given respecting many scarce and little-known species, so that this memoir will long remain an important authority on the East African Ornis.

The Ostrich of the Kilimandjaro district is assigned to *Struthio massaicus* of Neumann, but we are not told the characters which distinguish it from the other generally recognised forms.

At the conclusion of the memoir is given a complete list of the Birds of the Kilimandjaro-Meru district, 496 in all. Examples of 402 species represented by 1546 specimens were obtained by the Expedition.

25. *The South African Journal.*

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. vii. No. 1 (July, 1911).]

This number begins with a paper by Mr. C. F. Swynnerton on nests and eggs from Mt. Chirinda in Southern Rhodesia, from which an immense amount of information may be gathered with respect to the variation of the eggs, the position of the nests, the localities chosen, and the like. We have much enjoyed the perusal of the article and of the field-notes by Mr. Odendaal, of which it almost entirely consists. A second paper by Mr. C. G. Davies continues his accounts (*cf.* J. S. A. O. U., 1908) of the Birds of the Matialete District in East Griqualand; the notes are short, and we notice that many species which bulk largely in the papers of English explorers are thought to need no prolonged mention. It would be well for the latter to take heed of this fact, in these times of diffuse writing. Some remarks on a few species from Wakkerstroom by Mr. A. Roberts form the only other contribution besides Obituary Notices, Reviews, and short Notes.

26. *Stonham's 'Birds of the British Islands.'*

[The Birds of the British Islands. By Charles Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S. With Illustrations by Lilian M. Medland, F.Z.S. Parts xix. & xx. London: Grant Richards, Ltd., 1911.]

With these two final parts Mr. Stonham and Miss Medland bring to a conclusion their work, of which we announced the inception in 1906 ('Ibis,' 1906, p. 732). It is a useful book, and contains much valuable information. Bound in five volumes and illustrated by 317 uncoloured plates, many of which are excellent, it will be a pleasing ornament to the

ornithologists' library. Mr. Mullens' "List of Books relating to British Birds" will be very useful. That the work is much appreciated is shown by the long list of subscribers.

27. *Westell on some British Birds.*

[The Young Ornithologist. By W. Percival Westell. London, 1911; pp. i-xv., 1-311, col. frontisp. and 23 photographic reproductions.]

This book will hardly appeal to our members, as it is written for those of a younger age, but it may be found useful for their children. It is divided according to the so-called natural haunts of the birds, and includes accounts of the common and some of the rarer species. It is prefaced by an Introductory chapter by Mr. A. R. Horwood, of the Leicester Museum, entitled "Hints for the Young Ornithologist," which will be distinctly useful to those for whom it is intended.

28. *The Zoological Address-Book.*

[Zoologisches Adressbuch. Namen und Adressen der lebenden Zoologen, Anatomen, Physiologen und Zoopaläontologen, so wie der künstlerischen und technischen Hilfskräfte. Herausgegeben auf Veranlassung der Deutschen Zoologischen Gesellschaft von R. Friedländer & Sohn. Berlin, 1911. 8vo. 1110 pp.]

This is a most useful book to all who are working in any branch of zoology—no naturalist should be without it. It contains the names, addresses, and offices of all workers and writers on zoological subjects throughout the world, beginning with "Deutschland" and ending with "Tripoli," "Morocco," and "Abyssynia." Moreover, all the principal Zoological Institutions are mentioned, and the members of their staffs are stated and named. The best shops for objects of Natural History are also included.

So far as we have been able to test it the information supplied is correct. We owe our best thanks to the German Zoological Society and to Messrs Friedländer for this excellent piece of assistance to us in our labours.